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REPORT

CD NO.

CD NO.



DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 19 Jun 1950

DATE DIST. 19 Jun 1950

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

INDUSTRY FAILS TO FULFILL FIRST-QUARTER PLAN

At a meeting of industrial leaders, held 11 April 1950, Minister of Industry Anton Yugov made the following report concerning plan fulfillment in the first quarter of 1950:

Plans for spare parts for tractors were completed only 60 percent, harvesters 72, radiators 48, horseshoes 48, and agricultural machine tools 72 percent. Better results have been obtained by the Machinostroenye Plant with 118 percent, but here too, the plan provided for 32 types of machines, whereas only 15 have been actually manufactured.

The leather and rubber industries have also failed to fulfill their plans, and the cotton industry has produced only 28 grades of cloth instead of the 118 provided by the plan. The leather and rubber combine has failed to produce the new types of mens' and womens' shoes, and the 9 September Plant has manufactured only one type of shoe for women and two for men instead of the four and six provided by the plan for each of them; furthermore, the shoes manufactured were of the poorest quality.

In January of 1950, the Pamuchna Industria Cotton Mill manufactured 89,300 meters less than in December 1949, and the Vulnana Industria Woolen Mill manufactured 53,000 meters less cloth for the same period. The standards of production have also deteriorated, and silk fabrics were mostly defective.

Despite the efforts of "standards controllers," products of the chemical industry, such as tooth paste and soap, were also of most unsatisfactory quality.

Metallurgical production is also defective. The Zhiti plant has manufactured 5 tons of screw nuts unfit for any use. Defective production also prevails in agricultural machine plants.

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Coal production is also low in quantity and poor in quality. Much of the coal contains a high percentage of dust.

Manpower and machines have not been used to full capacity; work discipline is poor, and absenteeism has reduced working hours by 10 to 13 percent. However, some of these shortcomings are due to the shortage of both raw materials and power. Some personnel are fulfilling only 25 percent of their quotas, and technical personnel are careless regarding the proper maintenance of machinery and efficient work organization.

TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF ELECTRIC GOODS -- Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, No 17/18, 4 Mar 50

The state-owned Elprom Electrical Combine in Bulgaria, which produces electrical machinery, motors, and light bulbs, had an output of approximately 2.5 billion leva in 1949. The quality of the products, however, was far from satisfactory. To remedy this condition and particularly to reduce costs, only 70 percent of the 1950 plan is to be completed.

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